

MINUTES
MISSISSIPPI STATE BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE
BOARD MEETING
July 19, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order @ 9:11 am by Jeffrey O'Keefe, Board Chairman, at the Board's office, located at 3010 Lakeland Cove Ste W, Flowood, Mississippi.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jeffrey O'Keefe, Chairman
Kimberly Bedford, Board Member
David Ray, Vice Chairman
Keith Dean, Board Member
Sammy Reed, Secretary/Treasurer
Max Wells. Public Member at Large

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

VACANCY

Judicial District 2, Funeral Service

OTHERS PRESENT

Della Smith, Executive Director
Edward Wiggins, Board Attorney
Henry Glaze, Inspector/Investigator
Don Blackwell, Inspector/Investigator
Larry Duncan, Inspector/Investigator
Other interested parties

ELECTIONS

Tabled till next meeting.

MINUTES APPROVAL

Max Wells made the motion to accept the Minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: Dean

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APPLICATIONS

The Board considered the Reciprocal Application for Benjamin Phillips.

Kimberly Bedford motioned to enter into Closed Determination. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: Dean

Kimberly Bedford motioned to enter into Executive Session to consider the application for Benjamin Phillips which could result in an appeal of the Board's decision. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: Dean

The Board returned to open session and the Board Chairman delivered the Board's determination.

Determination: Sammy Reed motioned to deny pursuant to MS Code 73-11-51(7). Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: Dean

The Board considered the application for Leslie Reeves for Certified Crematory Operator license. Keith Dean made the motion to approve the license. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

The Board considered a request from Justin Pearson for credit of time under a previous registration Rule 6.4(5). Sammy Reed made the motion to approve the request. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

Application reviews were stopped and will continue after the hearing.

ESTABLISHMENT INTERVIEWS

Greater Jackson Mortuary MS-9839 Kimberly Bedford made the motion to approve. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

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Greater Jackson Crematory CR-9838 Kimberly Bedford made the motion to approve. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

LW Yates Funeral Home (FE-9387) – No show, rescheduled for October 18, 2021 meeting.

Grenada Cremation Services CR-9843 Samuel Reed made the motion to contingently approve pending receipt of ownership correction to Board staff. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

Community Funeral Directors & Cremations BE-9844 Samuel Reed made the motion to approve. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

Saulters-Moore Funeral Services – Interview only. Approval was given at the April 15, 2021 meeting.

Skeeter Robinson Funeral Home FE-9840 Keith Dean made the motion to approve. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

Hughes and Sons Funeral Home (FE-9841) – No show, rescheduled for October 18, 2021 meeting.

New Era Family Funeral Home (FE-9842) – No show, rescheduled for October 18, 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board allowed public comment from Kevin Hurt with East MS Community College (EMCC).

HEARING

Complaint 1072102859 Board of Funeral Services Vs Eddie “Skeeter” Robinson III

The hearing was called to begin at 10:30 a.m. Cite

Kimberly Bedford made the motion to enter into closed determination to determine if the Board should enter into Executive Session to consider the matter of Complaint 1072102859 that may result in an appeal of the Board’s decision. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

Keith Dean made the motion to enter into Executive Session. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

Determination:

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The Board determined there was a violation of the laws and rules of the Board. License FS-0696 would be suspended for 10 years. The suspension was stayed and placed on probation for 10 years. A fine of \$2500 plus hearing cost.

Violation of 73-11-57(1)(c) \$500 fine

Violation of 73-11-57(1)(g) \$1000 fine

Violation of 73-11-57(1)(v) \$1000 fine

Keith Dean made the motion to enter into Open Session and the Board's determination delivered. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

APPLICATIONS

The Board considered a request from Daryl Hinton for credit of time under a previous registration Rule 6.4(5). David Ray made the motion to deny the request due to the amount of passed time since completing. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

The Board considered a request from Jackie Nickson-Anderson for credit of time under a previous registration Rule 6.4(5). Kimberly Bedford made the motion to approve the request. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

The Board considered a request from Charles McGill for credit of time under a previous registration Rule 6.4(5). Max Wells made the motion to approve the request. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

The Board considered a request from Pamela Dickey for credit of time under a previous registration Rule 6.4(5). Kimberly Bedford made the motion to approve the request. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

The Board considered a request from Robert Pipkin for credit of time under a previous registration Rule 6.4(5). Keith Dean made the motion to approve the request. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells Against: none; Absent: None

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646356884 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Keith Dean made the motion to dismiss. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

1036702629 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Keith Dean made the motion to dismiss. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

1072102851 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Keith Dean made the motion to dismiss. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

215211862 Recommendation for hearing.

822435275 Recommendation for hearing.

1072102827 Recommendation for hearing.

1072102858 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. David Ray made the motion to dismiss. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

716142763 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to dismiss. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

1072102850 Recommendation to dismiss, funeral home closed. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to dismiss. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

1072102856 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to dismiss. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

1072102849 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to dismiss. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

135347838 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to dismiss. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

1072102846 Recommendation for hearing.

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NEW BUSINESS

Board staff advised the Board that the Contract for the Consulting Company Cornerstone Consulting Group would expire June 30, 2021. Kimberly Bedford Motioned to renew the contract. Keith Dean seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

Board staff presented the FY 23 Budget for approval. Sammy Reed made the motion to approve the budget for \$300,316 that includes a 5% salary increase for the Executive Director that was not granted by the Legislature for 2021. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

Board staff advised the Board that Rule 4.4(1) should be updated to include 1/8th panels. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to approve the change. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

Board staff advised the Board that address and phone numbers for individual licenses (FS, FD, and CCO) would be removed from the Board's website.

Funeral Service Exam – Will continue discussion at next Board Meeting.

Board staff advised the Board 73-50-2 Universal Occupational License Act will take effect July 1, 2021 and we were waiting on guidance from the Attorney General's office.

Board staff advised the Board of the Perpetual Care Bill 2261.

Board Staff Report – Tabled till next Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Quarterly Report updates – no changes made

COMPLAINTS

1072102857 Recommendation to close, not under the Board's jurisdiction and resolved by complainant. Keith Dean made the motion to close. Kimberly Bedford seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

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1072102855 Recommendation for hearing

622225391 Recommendation for hearing.

147192921 Recommendation to dismiss, no violation. Kimberly Bedford made the motion to dismiss. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

LICENSING

Keith Dean made the motion to approve all Funeral Director licenses. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

David Ray made the motion to approve all Funeral Service licenses. Sammy Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

David Ray made the motion to approve all Reciprocal licenses. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

Sammy Reed made the motion to approve all Certified Crematory Operator licenses. Max Wells seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vote for: Bedford, Ray, Dean, Reed and Wells
Against: none; Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

Kimberly Bedford made the motion to adjourn.

Sammy Reed seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Approval Signature: _____

